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This is the list of specific spiritual gifts that are named in the Bible. Before we examine them individually, we want to once again show the difference between a spiritual gift and a natural talent:

- 1) **A spiritual gift is from God, independent of parents**, whereas a natural talent comes from God through a parent.
- 2) **A spiritual gift exists from the moment of spiritual birth**, whereas a natural talent exists from the moment of physical birth. (Neither are recognized at the moment of birth)
- 3) **A spiritual gift is given to benefit people in a spiritual supernatural way**, whereas a natural talent benefits people in a natural way.
- 4) **A spiritual gift must be recognized, developed and used** and so does a natural talent.
- 5) **A spiritual gift is only given to a believer in Jesus Christ**, whereas a natural talent is given to every person.
- 6) **A spiritual gift may only be properly used to minister to others**, where as a natural talent may be used for personal or selfish reasons. Philippians 2:20 - gifts may be misused.

QUESTION #13 – What are the spiritual gifts listed in every passage?

- 1) **Romans 12:6-8** - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy
- 2) **I Corinthians 12:6-10** - Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues
- 3) **I Corinthians 12:28** - Apostles, Prophets, Teaching, Miracles, Healings, Helps, Administration, Tongues
- 4) **I Corinthians 12:29-30** - Apostles, Prophecy, Teaching, Miracles, Healing, Tongues, Interpretation of tongues.
- 5) **I Corinthians 13:1-3, 8** - Tongues (2 times), Prophecy (2 times), Knowledge (2 times), Faith, Giving
- 6) **I Corinthians 14:6** - Tongues, Revelation, Knowledge, Prophecy, Teaching
- 7) **I Corinthians 14:26** - Teaching, Revelation, Tongues, Interpreting Tongues.
- 8) **Ephesians 4:11** - Apostles, Prophecy, Evangelist, Pastor/Teacher
- 9) **I Peter 4:10-11** - Speaking, Serving

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QUESTION #14 – What are the specific individual gifts?

Spiritual Gift #1 - The gift of Apostle. I Cor. 12:28; I Cor. 12:29; Ephesians 4:11

According to God’s spiritual ranking of spiritual gifts, the gift of an Apostle was the highest ranked spiritual gift that one could have.

That fact is specifically mentioned by Paul in **I Corinthians 12:28:**
“and God has appointed in the church, **first apostles.**”

In Paul’s gift list in **Ephesians 4:11** he also lists it as first in importance -
“and He gave some as apostles.”

What we may immediately glean from these two statements is:

- 1) Being an Apostle was an appointment and entrustment of God.
- 2) Being an Apostle was the first ranked gift of God.
- 3) Being an Apostle was for “some,” not all.

The actual word “apostle” is used three ways in the N.T.:

- 1) It is used to refer to a specifically named office (Luke 6:13).
- 2) It is used to refer to a special spiritual gift (Eph. 4:11).
- 3) It is used to refer to a special ministry connected to the Apostles (Phil. 2:25) “messenger.”

The actual original word “apostle” (apostolos) means one who has been sent on a mission or expedition to set and arrange things (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, pp. 54-55).

The word “apostle” is a compound word “apo” means “from” and “stello” means to set, place and arrange. **One who is an apostle was one who was specifically sent by God to arrange and organize and set in place the people of God in the church.** Their job was to authoritatively communicate truth as a sent messenger of God.

To be an Apostle and to have this gift demanded meeting the criteria of four historical facts:

Fact #1 - One had to be appointed directly by Jesus Christ. Luke 6:13; II Tim. 1:11

Fact #2 - One had to have actually seen the resurrected Jesus Christ. I Cor. 9:1

Fact #3 - One had to have actually been taught for three years by Jesus Christ. Gal. 1:11-12

Fact #4 - One had to be supernaturally able to perform miraculous apostolic signs
Luke 9:1; II Cor. 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4

When it comes to the actual office and gift, there were only twelve apostles, plus Paul. In the N.T. the specific names of the twelve are listed four times: Matt. 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16; Acts 1:15-26.

In Acts 1:15-26, we learn that Matthias met the prerequisites and was chosen to replace Judas, so the number would remain twelve. The only other one added to this was the Apostle Paul.

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Paul is very specific to point out that his appointment to being an Apostle was very unique. He considered himself to be the least of the Apostles and the last of the Apostles (I Cor. 15:7-9).

This gift of apostle was a foundational gift for the Church Age (Eph. 2:20). What this means is that the apostles laid the foundation for the entire Church Age through their instruction, both verbal and written. These Apostles pointed the world to faith in Jesus Christ and God enabled them to perform Apostolic sign miracles and wonders, which became their credentials.

With the passing of the twelve and Paul, this gift ceased. Their foundation of communication and written revelation stands and the Church Age has moved forward. This impact of their gift is still reverberating today. But the gift is no longer operative.

Any today who claim to be an apostle are either ignorant of God's word or arrogant against God's word.

Spiritual Gift #2 - The gift of a prophet and the gift of prophecy.

Rom. 12:6; I Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11

The spiritual gift of a prophet and having the gift of prophecy are similar, although slightly different. A prophet was a gift classification of God and one could prophesy without having the gift classification of being a prophet.

In both the O.T. and the N.T., a prophet received direct revelatory information and messages from God.

G. Abbott-Smith said that the primary meaning of prophecy was "telling forth divine counsels." The noun "prophet" specifically means to receive and communicate the words and will and purposes and counsel of God (*Greek Lexicon*, p. 390).

We may understand this gift of prophecy as one who supernaturally received direct revelation from God and who communicated that revelation which included God's word, will, purpose and counsel.

To understand as much as God has revealed about this gift, we need to ask and answer seven questions:

(Question #1) - How important is this gift of prophecy to the Church?

There are six facts that we may see concerning this gift:

- 1) It was ranked by God as the number two gift after apostle (I Cor. 12:29; Eph. 4:11).
- 2) It revealed similar revelatory grace information to the Church like an apostle (Eph. 3:5).
- 3) It is a gift specifically mentioned in three gift passages (Rom. 12:6; I Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4:11).
- 4) It is a gift specifically named eight times (I Cor. 12:10, 28, 29; 13:2, 8, 9; 14:6; Eph. 4:11).
- 5) It is a gift far greater than tongues. (I Cor. 14:5).

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- 6) It was a gift with specific God-ordained guidelines (I Cor. 14:29-32).
- 7) It was a gift with specific God-ordered warnings because many are false (Deut. 13:1-5; 18:20-22; Jer. 29:8-9, 21-23; Matt. 7:15; I John 4:1-3).

(Question #2) - What type of information did the gift of prophecy reveal?

When a N.T. prophet or one with the gift of prophecy spoke, the revelatory information he received was partial and not complete (I Cor. 13:9). Each bit of prophetic information that God revealed to a prophet was inspired, imperative and immediate, but each piece was a partial ingredient that was significant to the whole.

For example, Daniel received a great deal of information about the coming Antichrist. But he was somewhat perplexed about the information he received (Dan. 7:19). Now that we have the prophetic writings of the Apostle John in Revelation, this prophetic truth becomes very clear. So a prophet received prophetic knowledge that was a part of the whole.

As far as the gift in the New Testament, there were various types of information revealed by a N.T. prophet or one who could prophesy:

- 1) Prophets were able to personally and individually reveal the selection of Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for sacred ministry and service. Acts 13:1-4
- 2) Prophets were able to reveal profitable revelation and information to the church. I Cor. 14:6
- 3) Prophets were able to reveal instructive revelation to the church for learning. I Cor. 14:31a
- 4) Prophets were able to reveal exhortative revelation to the church. I Cor. 14:31b
- 5) Prophets were able to reveal Christ's positional program work to the church. Eph. 2:19-20
- 6) Prophets were able to reveal Christ's mysterious grace program to the church. Eph. 3:5-12
- 7) Prophets were able to reveal written prophetic revelation for the church. II Pet. 1:20-21

This is an important text. There will always be symmetry or agreement to God's prophetic truth. No prophecy will ever be just one odd prophecy. There will be an inspired cohesion to the entire prophetic program of God.

- 8) Prophets were able to reveal the final prophetic program to the church. Rev. 1:1, 3.